

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 IO-13

TRSE-00 JUSE-00 AID-05 CA-01 SCS-06 NSCE-00

SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /082 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7540

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 3912

FOR ARA/CEN/N-D. WELTER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, SHUM, NU, PDIP

SUBJECT: LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER FROM MRS. CHAMORRO

REF: A) MANAGUA 0164, B) TUCKER-WELTER TELCON 8/22

1. THE LETTER SENT TO PRESIDENT CARTER FROM MRS. VIOLETTA CHAMORRO, WIDOW OF ASSASSINATED LA PRENSA EDITOR PEDRO JOAQUIN CHAMORRO, WAS CARRIED ON FRONT PAGE OF LA PRENSA AUGUST 21.

2. PUBLICATION OF MRS. CHAMORRO'S LETTER MAKES IT VERY LIKELY THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S RESPONSE WILL ALSO BE MADE PUBLIC.

3. WE INTERPRET MRS. CHAMORRO'S REFERENCE TO "EL COMPROMISO ADQUIRIDO POR LA EMBAJADA" TO MEAN ASSURANCES GIVEN BY THE EMBASSY IN ITS PUBLIC STATEMENT OF JANUARY 13, 1978 (REF A), WHICH STATED THAT "WHEN AN AMERICAN CITIZEN IS ACCUSED OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY, THE EMBASSY HAS THE OBLIGATION TO ATTEMPT TO GUARANTEE THAT JUSTICE PREVAILS. IN THIS CASE (ACCUSATIONS AGAINST DR. PEDRO RAMOS) IT WILL DO ALL
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IN ITS POWER TO ASSURE THAT JUSTICE IS DONE."

4. EMBASSY PROPOSES THAT PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE BRIEFLY BUT WARMLY ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF MRS. CHAMORRO'S LETTER AND EXPRESS HIS CONTINUING INTEREST AND CONCERN THAT JUSTICE BE DONE. IT MIGHT STATE THAT USG HAS INDICATED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS TO THE GON ITS INTEREST IN THE

CASE AND IS ALREADY COOPERATING WITH GON IN SOME ASPECTS OF THE INVESTIGATION (E.G., TRACING OF HANDGUNS), AND THAT THE PROCESS FOR THE EXTRADITION OF DR. PEDRO RAMOS IS UNDER WAY. (NOTE: GON AUTHORITIES VISITED CONSUL IN LATE JULY TO OBTAIN ADVICE ON THE CORRECT MANNER WITH WHICH TO PREPARE DOCUMENTATION FOR EXTRADITION REQUEST, BUT WE HAVE NOT HEARD ANYTHING FURTHER. THIS INDICATES THE ABSENCE OF A SPEEDY PROCESS. END NOTE).

5. SHOULD THE LATTER POINT BE INCLUDED IN THE PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE, EMBASSY SUGGESTS A STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT "THE PROCESS OF EXTRADITION IS A COMPLICATED ONE AND US LAWS AND REGULATIONS REQUIRE THAT CERTAIN STEPS BE UNDERTAKEN. WHILE USG RECEIVED SOME DOCUMENTATION FROM GON, IT HAD TO BE RETURNED SO THAT CERTAIN CHANGES COULD BE MADE IN ORDER THAT IT COMPLY WITH US JUDICIAL PRACTICES. WE ARE CURRENTLY AWAITING RECEIPT OF THE DOCUMENTATION WITH THESE CHANGES."

6. WITH RESPECT TO MRS. CHAMORRO'S COMPLAINT CONCERNING THE USAID LOANS, EMBASSY PROPOSES THAT THE LETTER POINT OUT THAT THE CONTINUATION OF US ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN NICARAGUA, AS IS THE CASE WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS WITH WHOM WE ARE NOT TOTALLY IN ACCORD, ARE NOT DESIGNED TO BE SUPPORTIVE OF THOSE GOVERNMENTS BUT RATHER TO MEET THE BASIC HUMAN NEEDS OF THE POOR.
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7. EMBASSY FEELS THAT THE SPEEDY, SUCCESSFUL HANDLING OF THE CHAMORRO CASE CAN HELP HEAL WOUNDS IN NICARAGUA, ESPECIALLY IF IT IS PROVED THAT FOREIGNERS, NOT NICARAGUANS, ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ORGANIZING ASSASSINATION.
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